

Healthy Fruit

Volume 11, 2003

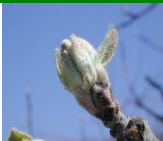

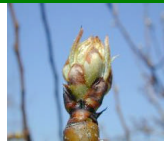


Prepared by the University of Massachusetts Fruit Team

Issue 3 - April 22, 2003

Current DD Accumulations

Location	Base 32F	Base 43F	Base 50F
Belchertown, UMass CSO observed (01/01/03 – 04/21/03)		150	50
Belchertown, UMass CSO, SkyBit™ (03/01/03 – 04/21/03)		157	NA
Belchertown, UMass CSO, observed (04/15/03 green-tip – 4/21/03)	136		

Current Bud Stages

Location	McIntosh	Gala	Pear	Peach	Sweet Cherry
Belchertown UMass CSO (04/21/03)					
	half-inch green	half-inch green	bud burst	swollen bud+	swollen bud+

Upcoming Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Time	Information
May 13-15	UMass Fruit Team Twilight Meetings	TBA	5:30 PM	Jon Clements 413-478-7219 Wes Autio 413-545-2963

Apple Scab Alert

Showers predicted for mid-week may result in a scab infection period. Most orchards have some green showing, with the bud stage ranging from green tip to half-inch green. ('Mouse ears.') The risk for infection is fairly high, given the alignment of spore maturity, exposed green tissue, and wetting. You may have taken advantage of good weather on Monday to put on a protectant fungicide. (Along with oil?) If not, you will want to use a protectant and post-infection fungicide during the next spray window and before the next wetting period. (Based on forecasts, later this week?) Protectant fungicides suitable for use during this period include: Captan (but NOT within 10 days of oil); EBDC fungicides such as Dithane, Manzate, or Penncozeb; Polyram; Syllit; or Vangard. (Four days protection only, best tank-mixed with another protectant.) Post-infection fungicides at this timing include Sovran and Flint.

Pear Fabraea Leaf Spot

Some Massachusetts pear orchards have been bothered by this disease. Bosc and Seckel cultivars are particularly susceptible. Wet springs facilitate the disease. If you had pear leaf spot last year, you should start fungicide sprays at green cluster. (Similar to tight cluster in apple.) Suitable fungicides include: Benlate and an EBDC (Dithane/Manzate/Penncozeb) as a tank mix; or the EBDC's alone. These will also control pear scab. Continue sprays at 10-14 day intervals through 1st or 2nd cover, particularly if the spring is wet.

Peach Fertilization Guidelines*

Peaches need annual nitrogen applications to maintain vigor and increase cropping. Mature peaches require 0.025 to 0.05 pounds of ACTUAL nitrogen per year of tree age. Split applications (two or three) of fertilizer are best:

- \$ Two applications = 3 weeks pre-bloom and at shuck split
- \$ Three applications = 3 weeks pre-bloom, shuck split and 3 weeks later

NOW is the time for the first application. A complete fertilizer is best: use either 10-10-10 or 16-8-8. A sample calculation:

- \$ assume 6 year-old peach trees on sandy soil, with moderate nitrogen needs at 0.05 pounds per year of tree age
- \$ 6 years X 0.05 pounds = 0.30 pounds total nitrogen for the season
 - if two applications to be made, each application should include 0.15 pounds actual nitrogen per tree
- \$ using 16-8-8 (0.16 pounds actual nitrogen per pound fertilizer) for the first application, then each tree would receive just under one pound (15 ounces to be exact) of fertilizer per tree.

Be sure to spread the fertilizer evenly under the tree canopy out to the drip-line. The second application should be made using ammonium nitrate (34% N) or calcium nitrate (16% N). Young, non-bearing trees require somewhat more nitrogen, at 0.1 to 0.2 pounds actual nitrogen per year of tree age. The same calculations apply and split applications are again beneficial.

**Adapted from 'Peach Fertilization Guidelines—2001' by Win Cowgill and Meredith Peters, Rutgers Cooperative Extension. For a complete reprint of the article, contact Jon Clements.*

Pre-bloom Nutrient Applications for Apples

It was a long, cold winter. Apples will most likely benefit from a pre-bloom nutrient application applied as a tank mix at tight cluster. The recipe calls for:

- \$ Urea (feed-grade, < 0.25% biuret) @ 3 pounds per 100 gallons (dilute)
- \$ Solubor® @ 1 pound per 100 gallons
- \$ EDTA zinc chelate (several brands) at label recommendation

Such an application reduces stress on trees going into bloom and may result in increased fruit set and early spur leaf vigor. It is highly recommended.

These recommendations are not a substitute for pesticide labeling. Read the label before applying any pesticide - it is the legal document.